Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 168256
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S E C R E T STATE 168256

EXDIS - GENEVA FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT DAR ES SALAAM 2821 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
ADDIS ABABA KHARTOUM CAIRO MOSCOW DAMASCUS FREETOWN JIDDA
KUWAIT LAGOS LIBREVILLE SANA BAGHDAD JUL 1.

QUOTE S E C R E T DAR ES SALAAM 2821

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PSNS, PEPR, ET, SU, TZ
SUBJECT: NYERERE TO PROMOTE ETHIO-SUDANESE ACCORD ON ERITREA
AT OAU SUMMIT

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT NYERERE IS GOING TO THE OAU MEETING IN
KHARTOUM FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF PROMOTING A SETTLEMENT OF
DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SUDAN BY GETTING AGREEMENT ON
ERITREA. HE WOULD APPRECIATE: A) THE US' "CHECKING OUT" HIS
JUDGMENT OF SOVIET POLICY ON THE SUBJECT, AND B) ITS ENCOURAGING
ARAB STATES FRIENDLY TO THE ERITREANS TO SUPPORT HIS APPROACH
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PAGE 02 STATE 168256

TO A SOLUTION. END SUMMARY

1. NYERERE CALLED ME TO HIS MSASANI HOUSE EVENING OF JUNE 30
JUST AFTER MY RETURN FROM VISIT TO UNHCR BURUNDIAN REFUGEE
SETTLEMENT IN WESTERN TANZANIA. FONMIN MKAPA WAS ONLY OTHER
PRESENT. NYERERE SAID THAT HE HAD CONCLUDED LITTLE MORE COULD
BE DONE AT THIS POINT TO SETTLE SOMALIA-ETHIOPIA QUARREL, BUT

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

HE BELIEVED POSSIBILITIES WERE ENCOURAGING FOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SUDAN AND ETHIOPIA. QUESTION OF ERITREA WAS THE KEY. NYERERE HAD NOT INTENDED TO GO TO KHARTOUM OAU MEETING, BUT HE WAS NOW GOING FOR THIS SPECIFIC PURPOSE.

2. NYERERE WENT OVER COURSE OF SUDAN-ETHIOPIA DIFFICULTIES AND AFRICAN EFFORTS TO SOLVE THEM IN SOME DETAIL. HE REFERRED FREQUENTLY TO DIALOGUE HE HAS HAD THROUGH LETTERS AND EMISSARIES WITH SUDAN PRESIDENT NIMEIRI AND SAID THAT NIMERIRI'S ORIGINAL POSITION THAT ERITREA (UNLIKE SHABA) WAS SPECIAL CASE FOR SECESSION HAD RECENTLY CHANGED. NIMEIRI NOW AGREED THAT APPROACH TO ERITREA BY ADDIS ABABA SHOULD BE THE SAME AS K-4597.'S APPROACH TO THE SOUTHERN SUDAN, I.E., NO SESSION BUT SOME SEPARATE IDENTITY, THIS TO BE ACHIEVED THROUGH POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS.

3. NYERERE LISTED NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENTS WHICH HE THOUGHT HELPFUL TOWARD THIS END. THE TWO ERITREAN LEADERS HAVE JUST GONE TO MOSCOW CALLING FOR TALKS. RECENT ETHIOPIAN ENVOYS TO NYERERE CLAIMED THAT ADDIS HAD CEASED MEDIA PROPAGANDA AGAINST SUDAN, BUT KHARTOUM HAD NOT RECIPROCATED. NYERERE THOUGHT HE HAD NOW PERSUADED KHARTOUM TO DO SO AS UNILATERAL ACT IN PREPARTION FOR OAU SUMMIT. HE HAD TOLD ETHIOPIANS OF NIMEIRI'S NEW ATTITUDE ON ERITREA AND THEY HAD SEEMED PLEASED. FIGHTING IN ERITREA WAS FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST MORE OR LESS DEADLOCKED--A GOOD TIME FOR TALKS AS FAR AS BOTH SIDES WERE CONCERNED.
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4. NYERERE SAID HE TOLD US SOME TIME AGO THAT HE BELIEVED CUBANS DREW DISTINCTION BETWEEN OGADEN AND ERITREA. MENGISTU'S VISIT TO HAVANA CONFIRMED THIS. NYERERE RECENTLY PRESSED SOVIET EMBASSY HERE HARD SPECIFICALLY ON USSR'S POSITION ON THIS QUESTION. HE HAD BEEN ASSURED VERY STRONGLY THAT USSR MAKES SAME DISTINCTION AND WOULD SUPPORT POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS AIMED AT NON-SECESSIONARY SEPARATE IDENTITY FOR ERITREA. IF SUDAN NOW ACCEPTED THIS ALSO, WAY SHOULD BE PAVED FOR ARABS WHO SUPPORT ERITREAN SECESSION TO DO SO AS WELL.

5. NYERERE ENDED BY SAYING HE WANTED USG, WHICH HE KNEW IS VERY INTERESTED IN PROBLEMS OF THE HORN, TO KNOW HIS THINKING AND WHAT HE WAS UP TO. HE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR OUR "CHECKING OUT" SOVIET POSITION AS HE UNDERSTOOD IT. IF HIS JUDGMENTS TURN OUT TO BE CORRECT AND PROGRESS BEGINS, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF US WOULD ENCOURAGE ITS ARAB FRIENDS, SOME OF WHICH WERE SUPPORTING ERITREAN SECESSION, TO GO ALONG WITH HIS APPROACH.

6. COMMENT: I SAID WE WERE GRATEFUL TO HAVE NYERERE'S THOUGHTS. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION ON HOW HE KNEW SOVIET POSITION,

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

HE SAID IT WAS FROM USSR EMBASSY HERE, NOT AS RESULT OF
SPECIAL MESSAGE. HOWEVER, HE HAD PRESSED SOVIETS HERE HARD,
AND THIS RESPONSE HAD XEEN FIRM AND CLEAR. NYERERE AT LEAST
IMPLIED THAT HE WANTED US ACTUALLY TO ASK THE SOVIETS ABOUT
ERITREA TO SEE IF WE GET SAME ANSWER HE DID, BUT HE WOULD
PROBABLY SETTLE JUST FOR OUR JUDGMENT OF SOVIET POSITION.
HE IS LIKELY TO GO AHEAD ANYWAY AND MAY BE MAINLY INTERESTED
IN GETTING US TO PERSUADE MODERATE ARABS TO COOPERATE. I
WOULD WELCOME ANY REACTION DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE FOR NYERERE
BEFORE HE LEAVES FOR KHARTOUM.
SPAIN UNQUOTE VANCE

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Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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20 Mar 2014
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